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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/725,558	12/03/2003	Joseph A. Lomastro	108324-00003	4027

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, DONGHAI D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3729

DATE MAILED: 07/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/725,558	LOMASTRO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Donghai D. Nguyen	3729	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 30-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 30-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 December 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/03/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). Because of the following:

a) the drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims.

Therefore, the “pressing portions said first carrier strip against portions of the second carrier strip by forcing said portions of said first and second carrier strip into wedge portion of the cap” as cited in claim 34, lines 2-4 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

b) Drawings fail to show “a support surface 304c” as described in the specification (page 6, paragraph 29). Any structural detail that is essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention should be shown in the drawing. MPEP § 608.02(d). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application.

c) Further, Figs. 11-13 of the drawings are objected to because the character of lines, numbers, and letters is not uniformly thick and well defined, clean and poor line quality. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. It's reminder that each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

2. Related application should have been updated, for examples: the phrase, “prior pending Application Serial No. 10/062,434” (under CROSS-REFERENCE heading, lines 1-2) should be: --Application Serial No. 10/062,434, now U.S. Patent No. 6,679,734--; and “pending Application Serial No. 09/929,336” (under CROSS-REFERENCE heading, line 3) should be: --Application Serial No. 09/929,336, now U.S. Patent No. 6,772,516--.

3. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The following title is suggested: --METHOD OF MAKING SUBMINIATURE ELECTRICAL CONNECTOR--.

4. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the claimed invention directs to a method of making a same potential block. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Objections

5. Claims 31 and 38 are objected to because of the following informalities:

- a) the phrase “is formed to form” (claim 31, line 2) should be changed to: --as--.
- b) “step (h) includes” (claim 38, line 2) should be changed to: --step (h) further includes--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) The invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 30 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 4,752,246 to Triner et al.

Regarding claim 30, Triner et al disclose a method of making a connector or a same potential block (10) having a main body (28), comprising: stamping a first metal piece from a first sheet of metal (See, Col. 3, lines 56-58), said first metal piece including a first carrier strip (58) and a plurality of first clips (22) extending from said first carrier strip, and an external contact (26) portion protruding from the first metal piece to form a mating structure for a connector (terminal 14), and inserting said plurality of first clips (22) into a plurality of holes (16) of the main body of the connector or the same potential block (10, Fig. 1 depicts the insertion step where the clips 22's are inserting into plurality of holes of the connector housing).

Regarding claim 31, Triner et al disclose the forming of external contact portion (i.e., 32, 46) as a mating structure for a D-subminiature connector (See Col. 3, lines 22-25).

8. Claims 30, 32-35 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 3,548,367 to Bruetsch.

Regarding claim 30, Bruetsch discloses a method of making of wire splicing unit (22) having a main body (23/24), comprising: stamping a first metal piece from a first sheet of metal (See, Col. 3, lines 27-30), said first metal piece (26) including a first carrier strip (26') and a plurality of first clips (48) extending from said first carrier strip, and an external contact (56) portion protruding from the first metal piece to form a mating structure for a connector (terminal

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14), and inserting said plurality of first clips (48) into a plurality of holes (38/54) of the main body of the wire splicing unit (22, see Fig. 4). It is noted that reference character 22 of the reference is readable as the “same potential block” as claimed by applicants.

Regarding claim 32, Bruetsch discloses stamping a second metal piece (30) from a second sheet of metal (see Figs 1 and 6), said second metal piece including a second carrier strip (linking portion between two clips 70), and a plurality of second clips (70) extending from said second carrier strip; inserting said plurality of second clips into said plurality of holes (38/54) of said main body (see Fig. 1).

Regarding claim 33, Bruetsch discloses the step inserting the first and second clips into holes of the main body by positioning said first and carrier strips within a hollow formed in said main body (9) and inserting a cap (32) into said hollow of said main body, said cap having a plurality of holes (54) aligning with said plurality of holes (38) formed in said main body (24'/23, See Fig. 1).

Regarding claim 34, Bruetsch's Figs. 1 and 7 show portions said first carrier strip press against portions (72) of said second carrier strip by forcing said portions of said first and second carrier strips into wedge portions.

Regarding claim 35, Bruetsch discloses attaching a pin (36/60) to a ground shield wire of a cable (40) and inserting the pin (36) into one of said plurality of holes formed in said main body to create an electrical connection between said ground shield wire and said exterior contact portion (See Figs. 1 and 3).

Regarding claim 37, Fig. 3 shows the same potential block physically attaches and electrically connects to a connector (60).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claim 36 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bruetsch in view of US Patent 4,653,842 to Kirma.

Bruetsch discloses the pin (36) is retained by the tine (46), but does not disclose how the pin being removed. Kirma teaches the step of remove the pin (18) by a special tool for disengaging the pin from the retainer (13, see Col. 5, lines 17-19). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the tool for removing pin from the retainer as taught by Kirma on the Bruetsch invention for many benefits including for removing the pin from the retainer.

11. Claim 38 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bruetsch in view of Triner et al.

Bruetsch discloses all the claimed limitations recited in the above claims with the exception of attaching the connector to the D-subminiature connector. D-subminiature connector is known in the art, one having artisan skill in the art would know to interconnect a particular type of connector onto the D-subminiature connector depends upon the application requirements purpose. Further, Triner et al disclose the above (see the discussion at col. 3, lines 22-25).

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Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The prior art of reference cited for the teaching of making a connector.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Donghai D. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571)-272-4566. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (9:00-6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter D. Vo can be reached on (571)-272-4690. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DN
July 01, 2005


MINH TRINH
PRIMARY EXAMINER